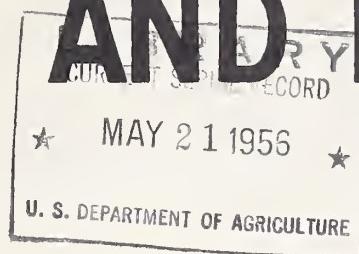


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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS



FOR RELEASE MONDAY, MAY 14, 1956

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**NETHERLANDS ANNOUNCES NEW
GUARANTEED PRICE TO MILK PRODUCERS**

The Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture has announced a new guaranteed price to milk producers at \$2.73 per cwt. for milk with a 3.7 percent fat content. The new price came into effect April 29, 1956 and represents a 5 cent per cwt. rise over the previous producer price.

The retail price of milk was also raised slightly and is now approximately 8.7 cents per quart for milk standardized at 2.5 percent fat content.

BRAZIL'S 1955 TOBACCO EXPORTS
SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN 1954

Brazil's exports of unmanufactured tobacco during 1955 totaled 62.2 million pounds, .3 million pounds larger than in 1954 but 54.4 million pounds below the 1946 record high of 116.6 million pounds. Most of the increase over 1954 occurred in larger shipments to the Netherlands, Switzerland, Finland, France, Algeria, Italy and Austria. West Germany, the principal export market for Brazilian leaf, reduced its takings substantially from the 1954 level of 16 million pounds. Exports to Spain, Sweden, Uruguay, Belgium, Indochina and Morocco were also below the 1954 levels.

BRAZIL: Exports of unmanufactured tobacco during 1955,
with comparisons

Country of Destination	1953	1954	1955 1/
	: 1,000 pounds	: 1,000 pounds	: 1,000 pounds
Western Germany.....	11,629	16,023	9,436
Spain.....	6,602	10,523	9,116
France.....	3,500	3,121	4,120
Netherlands.....	7,136	6,383	7,392
Denmark.....	3,404	5,122	5,172
Sweden.....	1,053	946	179
Switzerland.....	2,518	4,426	4,971
Indochina.....	1,909	1,029	445
Algeria.....	2,230	1,968	2,588
Uruguay.....	5,027	4,455	3,920
Others.....	7,624	7,876	14,851
Total.....	52,632	61,872	62,190

1/ Preliminary

COMMUNIST CHINA PURCHASES 11.9
MILLION POUNDS OF YUGOSLAV TOBACCO

The Yugoslav Federal Chamber of Foreign Trade and Red China's National Native Produce Export Corporation have arranged for the delivery of 11.9 million pounds of Yugoslav tobacco during the second quarter of this year, according to a recent report. Yugoslav enterprises participating in this transaction include Makedonija of Skoplje, Centroprom of Belgrade, and Herzegovina of Mostar. The Communist Chinese have indicated a keen interest in medium and lower qualities of Yugoslav leaf, and it is expected Yugoslavia will export large quantities of these grades to Communist China.

FLOODS DAMAGE PHILIPPINES CIGAR LEAF AND SUPPORT PROGRAM SUGGESTED FOR CAGAYAN CIGAR TOBACCO

Two significant developments have recently occurred which affect dark leaf tobacco grown in the Cagayan Valley in Northeastern Luzon. The first is severe damage caused by floods following typhoon "Thelma" on April 21. The second is the proposal from a committee of the Philippine Tobacco Administration for a price support operation for dark leaf tobacco from the Cagayan Valley.

Flood Damage

Full details about the tobacco loss caused by floods after the recent typhoon in the Cagayan Valley are still not available. Some exaggerated claims placed the estimate of damage at 90 percent of the crop. More conservative estimates indicate a loss of from 50-60 percent.

Previously, the United States Agricultural Attaché in Manila reported that dark tobacco production in Cagayan Valley would be decreased by drought conditions. It was believed that production might be down some 25 percent which would have meant a crop somewhat in excess of 17.5 million pounds. If the more conservative estimates of a 50 percent flood damage are verified, then the total Cagayan crop this year may only be 9 to 11 million pounds. Further details will be available in the near future.

Tobacco grown in the Cagayan Valley traditionally has supplied the dark filler and scrap tobacco primarily to European markets, mostly Spain. This is the region which produces the Philippine scrap and filler tobaccos imported by the United States. The Valley has long been a producer of cigar tobacco for export.

Because of the drought and flood damages, supplies for the domestic and export markets will be materially reduced. With a shorter crop, prices are expected to be considerably above those of recent years.

Dark Leaf Price Support Program

For some time there have been agitated discussions over a price support operation for dark tobacco produced in the Cagayan Valley. One of the important purposes would be to give dark leaf producers a similar type of price protection as that enjoyed by farmers growing flue-cured leaf.

Support prices by grades have been proposed, but no definite decisions have been made. It is interesting, however, to compare a few of these proposed support prices for certain grades. The minimum price for the fourth grade of Cagayan tobacco would be increased from 12.2 cents to 15.6 cents per pound. Similarly, the minimum price of the same grade of Isabella leaf would be increased from 6.8 cents to 11.7 cents per pound.

Representatives of the tobacco export trade say that even without price supports, Philippine cigar tobaccos are already overpriced. Increased prices may have less bearing on the amount of tobacco shipped to Europe than on that shipped to the United States. However, the export trade believes that there is little possibility of filling the 6.5 million pound United States quota even with present prices which average around 30 cents per pound for the scrap and main filler grade which enter the United States. Some members of the export trade believe that if price supports are adopted, the price of the grades exported to the United States might increase from 4 to 5 cents per pound. While the final outturn of the price support program cannot be predicted, the tobacco export trade in Manila thinks that some increase in price is likely to take place.

NYASALAND EXPECTS LARGER TOBACCO CROP

The Tobacco Control Commission of Nyasaland expects the 1956 tobacco crop to be more than one-third larger than in 1955. An early dry season was followed by timely rains which increased production substantially. Flue-cured production is expected to show the greatest increase - 41 percent more than in 1955.

NYASALAND: Tobacco production by type, 1955, 1956 estimated				
Type	:	1955	:	1956
	:	<u>pounds</u>	:	<u>pounds</u>
Flue-cured.....	:	1,000	:	1,000
Fire-cured.....	:	3,660	:	5,178
Sun-cured.....	:	14,746	:	20,298
Burley.....	:	2,321	:	4,080
	:	2,016	:	2,484
Total.....	:	22,743	:	32,040

SOUTH AFRICA BARTERS CORN FOR EGYPTIAN RICE

A corn for rice-barter agreement has been negotiated between the Governments of South Africa and Egypt. Under the provisions of this agreement, the Union of South Africa will send Egypt 50,000 tons of white corn valued at \$2,450,000 during the three-months period ending June 30, 1956, in exchange for 25,000 tons of rice of the same monetary value from Egypt. It is understood that the corn will be shipped in five cargo loads, the first shipment to leave Capetown in April. According to the Union's Department of Nutrition, which will be the sole buying agency under the barter agreement, all of the 25,000 tons of Egyptian rice was scheduled to arrive in South Africa by the end of April.

**URUGUAY'S FATS AND OILS
SUPPLY SHOWS INCREASE**

Uruguay's supply of edible and industrial oilseeds in 1956 shows a fairly substantial increase over 1955. This is especially true with flaxseed, which increased almost 80 percent. Sunflower seed is expected to be up almost 8 percent. Peanut output may be down slightly.

The 1955-56 flaxseed harvest is estimated unofficially at 3,940,000 bushels compared with the revised official estimate of 2,205,000 bushels produced in 1954-55. (Unofficial sources estimate the 1954-55 crop at almost 2,400,000 bushels in view of known exports and a rather stable consumption.) The 1956 planting of flaxseed for 1956-57 harvest is expected to be slightly larger than the 249,000 acres planted in 1955 due to a likely diversion of some acreage from wheat.

Table 1 - URUGUAY: Flaxseed supply and distribution,
calendar 1955 and forecast 1956

	1955 1/	Forecast 1956 2/
<u>Supply</u>		
Stocks, January 1.....	0	0
Production (crop year).....	2,205	3,940
Imports.....	0	0
Total.....	<u>2,205</u>	<u>3,940</u>
<u>Distribution</u>		
Exports.....	0	395
Crushings.....	1,945	3,070
Seed and waste.....	260	395
Stocks, December 31.....	0	80
Total.....	<u>2,205</u>	<u>3,940</u>

1/ Official estimates of Ministry of Livestock and Agriculture. 2/ Unofficial estimates based on information from the Ministry and from the trade.

3/ Exports prohibited.

Prices of flaxseed during 1955 ranged from 20.00 to 24.50 pesos, per 100 kilograms. In March 1956 the price increased to 28.25 pesos. In April quotations were carried as nominal, but it is believed that very little flaxseed remained to be marketed.

The price of linseed oil reached \$240.00 per metric ton (10.9 cents per pound) during 1955. This was \$36.00 a ton (1.6 cents per pound) higher than first sales going out in January at \$204.00 (9.3 cents). The rate of exchange for oil from the 1955 crop exported or stored in custom depots up to September 30, 1955, was set at 2.125 pesos per dollar after which time it dropped to 1.90 pesos or its equivalent in other currencies. While flaxseed exports were not permitted in 1955, oil exports were reported at 32,876 tons.

Table 2 - URUGUAY: Linseed oil supply and distribution,
calendar 1955 and forecast 1956

	1955	Forecast 1956
	<u>Short tons</u>	
<u>Supply</u>		
Stocks, January 1.....	16,535	0
Production 1/	17,430	27,500
Imports.....	0	0
Total.....	<u>33,965</u>	<u>27,500</u>
<u>Distribution</u>		
Exports.....	2/ 33,215	22,000
Industrial consumption.....	750	1,100
Stocks, December 1.....	0	4,400
Total.....	<u>33,965</u>	<u>27,500</u>

1/ Based on 32 percent extraction rate. 2/ La Exportacion del Uruguay - trade publication based on ships' manifests.

Uruguay's 1956 sunflower seed harvest is forecast at almost 100,000 short tons compared with the official estimate for 1955-crop seed of 92,940 tons. The only export of sunflower seed oil during 1955 was a small quantity (437 pounds) sent to Germany. Approximately 6,600 tons of old crop sunflower oil is still in stock, indicating that the 2.35 peso exchange rate was too low to allow profitable export of oil. Exporters believe a rate somewhat over 3.00 pesos per dollar would be required to give them a profitable margin. There is no indication as yet of the policy to be established for the new crop oil, but it is believed that a higher rate of exchange will be granted.

Peanut production in 1956 is forecast at about 5,500 tons against 5,625 tons in 1955. As in the past, peanuts and peanut oil were not exported in 1955, but 557 tons of peanut expellers and 1,470 tons of meal were exported.

NEW WHALING COMPANY ESTABLISHED IN NEW ZEALAND

A new whaling company has been incorporated in New Zealand for the purpose of operating a whaling station on Great Barrier Island in the northernmost part of the country. The only other whaling station operating in New Zealand is in the Tory Channel on Cook Strait, and has an average catch of about 115 whales annually.

TURKEY'S FATS AND OILS PRODUCTION MAY
EXCEED LAST YEAR'S SHORT SUPPLY

Turkey's oilseed output in 1956 appears likely to exceed that of 1955, according to early indications. The only production estimates available as yet, however, are the following: Sesame seed- 33,000 tons; sesame oil- 5,500; cottonseed- 275,575; and cottonseed oil- 22,000 tons.

Production of oilseeds in 1955 was almost 10 percent less than output in 1954, with the most significant decline in cottonseed production. Vegetable oil production decreased one-fifth, largely the result of the sharp drop in olive oil outturn. The only increases reported were in sunflower seed and oil and tobacco seed and oil. In addition to vegetable oils, Turkey produced 1,655 tons of dolphin fish oil in 1955 compared with 2,755 tons in 1954.

Table 1 - TURKEY: Oilseed, vegetable oil and fish oil production, 1954 and 1955

(Short tons)

Oilseed	1954	1955	Oil	1954	1955
:	:	:	:	:	:
:	:	:	:	:	:
Cottonseed.....	<u>1/</u> 297,620	<u>1/</u> 242,500	Cottonseed.....	26,455	26,455
Sesame seed....	24,250	18,740	Sesame seed....	4,000	2,645
Sunflower seed:	176,370	198,415	Sunflower seed..	26,455	41,885
Flaxseed.....	<u>2/</u> 16,535	<u>2/</u> 11,000	Linseed.....	3,860	5,620
Poppy seed.....	4,960	2,755	Poppy seed.....	1,545	1,100
Tobacco seed...	330	1,100	Tobacco seed...	75	130
Rapeseed.....	1,655	1,655	Rapeseed.....	440	440
Hempseed.....	3,860	3,300	Olive.....	<u>3/</u> 88,000	<u>4/</u> 44,000
Peanuts <u>5/</u>	16,095	11,000	Olive foots....	10,500	6,600
Soybeans.....	<u>6/</u> 4,520	<u>6/</u> 4,400	Dolphin-fish....	2,755	1,655
Anise seed.....	1,320	1,210			

1/ Commercial production. 2/ Equivalent in thousand bushels: 1954- 591; 1955- 394. 3/ Central Statistical Office. Trade estimate is around 70,000. 4/ May be high. 5/ Peanuts are not crushed for oil. 6/ Equivalent in thousand bushels: 1954- 151; 1955- 147.

Compiled from official and unofficial sources.

Exports of fats and oils commodities from Turkey consist almost entirely of oil seeds. The only oils exported in 1955 were 511 tons of fish oil and 11 tons of olive oil.

Table 2 - TURKEY: Oilseed exports by major sources of destination, 1954 and 1955

(Short tons)

Commodity and country	: 1954	: 1955	Commodity and country	: 1954	: 1955
Cottonseed	:	:	Hempseed	:	:
Israel.....	818	0	Czechoslovakia....	331	659
Lebanon.....	366	0	Hungary.....	1,047	412
Finland.....	0	551	Rumania.....	330	1,651
Total.....	<u>1,184</u>	<u>551</u>	England.....	0	485
Sunflower seed	:	:	United States....	0	165
Czechoslovakia....	1,595	1,120	Total.....	<u>1,920</u>	<u>4,307</u>
Israel.....	<u>1,362</u>	<u>564</u>	Peanuts (unsheiled):	:	:
Total.....	<u>2,957</u>	<u>1,684</u>	Lebanon.....	6	410
Flaxseed	:	:	England.....	704	254
Bulgaria.....	<u>1,133</u>	0	Czechoslovakia....	0	331
Total.....	<u>1,133</u>	0	France.....	0	306
Poppy seed	:	:	Total.....	<u>908</u>	<u>1,774</u>
West Germany.....	231	11	Soybeans	:	:
Israel.....	<u>198</u>	<u>77</u>	Czechoslovakia....	431	2,315
Total.....	<u>724</u>	<u>88</u>	Israel.....	<u>1,058</u>	<u>1,733</u>
	:	:	Total.....	<u>1,489</u>	<u>4,048</u>

Compiled from official sources.

Prices of oilseeds and oils continued to move upward in 1955 under inflationary pressures in the economy and developing shortages.

BELGIAN VEGETABLE OIL IMPORTS UP 40 PERCENT; OILSEED IMPORTS DOWN

Belgian imports of vegetable oils rose to nearly 136,900 short tons in 1955, up 40 percent from the 97,800 tons imported in 1954. The big increases were in crude cottonseed and peanut oils. The cottonseed oil came largely from the United States (21,070 tons) while the bulk of the peanut oil originated in India (28,790 tons).

In contrast, imports of oilseeds fell about 18 percent from 1954, with the major decreases coming in peanuts, copra, and flaxseed. Of the 39,500 tons of flaxseed imported in 1955, approximately 56 percent was from the United States as compared with 84 percent in 1954. Soybean imports increased more than three-and-a-half times in 1955, and imports from the United States increased by about the same amount. Recently, however, trade sources have been complaining about the quality of soybeans they are receiving.

Exports of oils and oilseeds, as in 1954, were fairly small. The only sizable exports were in refined cottonseed oil. These totaled about 30,600 tons (almost equal to the imports of crude oil) and went mostly to Western Germany. Belgium also imported 13,600 short tons of marine oils, largely from Norway. Exports of marine oils totaled only 1,370 tons.

BELGIUM: Foreign trade in specified vegetable oils
and oil-bearing materials, 1954 and 1955

(1,000 short tons)

Commodity	Oil-bearing material:				Oil 1/	
	Imports : 1954:	Exports : 1954:	Imports : 1954:	Exports : 1955	Imports : 1955	Exports : 1955
	Copra.....	37.6: 24.0: - : - : 3.0:	5.4: 6.8: .9			
Cottonseed.....	2/ : 3/ : 2/ : - : 9.6:	30.5: 3.6: 30.7				
Flaxseed (linseed).....	51.7: 39.5: 7.1: 2.1: 9.7:	2.2: 2.6: 4.5				
Palm kernels.....	29.5: 28.8: - : - : 2.5: 4/	5.5: 1.9: 4/ 3.6				
Palm oil.....	- : - : - : - : 50.1:	48.2: 7.6: 8.6				
Peanuts.....	38.4: 8.2: 3/ : 3/ : 18.8:	39.6: 4.6: 7.9				
Soybeans.....	9.1: 33.9: 2/ : - : .6:	.9: 2.7: 2.7				
Others.....	18.9: 17.0: .5: .9: 3.5:	4.6: 3.5: 3.7				
Total.....	185.2: 151.4: 7.7: 3.1: 97.8:	136.9: 33.3: 62.6				

1/ Crude and refined. 2/ Included in "Others." 3/ Less than 50 tons.
4/ "Palm kernel and coconut oil."

Flaxseed acreage in 1955 was up 10 percent from a year earlier, but production of flaxseed (24,600 short tons) was up 14 percent due to increased yields. Crushings also were up slightly so that linseed oil production (15,580 tons) held to approximately the same level as 1954 even though crude edible oil production in general was down almost one-fourth.

Oilcake production totaled only 105,950 short tons as compared with 112,250 tons in 1954. Imports totaled 201,600 tons, more than half of which consisted of soybean and cottonseed oilcake. Exports totaled 44,200 tons, about half of which was linseed oilcake bound for France.

FRENCH WEST AFRICA
INCREASES RICE IMPORTS

Record rice imports into French West Africa in 1955 totaled 111,630 metric tons (1 metric ton = 2,204.6 pounds) as compared with 68,498 tons in 1954. Despite a steady gain in the rice production of that country, the demand for imported rice appears to be increasing. Rice imports in 1955 were approximately three times as large as in the 1946-50 period, when an average of 34,000 tons were imported annually.

French West Africa in past years has taken its rice imports from Indochina (Viet Nam). Before the end of 1955, however, the trade agreement between France and Viet Nam was abrogated. Thus it became necessary for French West Africa to look elsewhere for supplies, and some rice was purchased under trade agreements with Egypt, Spain, and Brazil.

Largest rice imports, other than from Viet Nam, were from the United States. Having found the American rice highly satisfactory for local trade purposes, an additional order was made early in 1956, and further imports were planned for later use. To a large extent, the market for United States rice in French West Africa depends upon the availability of rice from Viet Nam. However, it does not appear that trading between France and Viet Nam can be re-established in the near future, or that Viet Nam's rice supplies will be sufficient for the required imports of French West Africa in 1956.

EGYPT PROHIBITS RICE EXPORTS

The Egyptian Ministry of Supply in April prohibited further rice export commitments until it is determined that stocks on hand are adequate to meet all domestic requirements. This decree does not apply to export commitments already made, which are believed to be approximately 250,000 metric tons (1 metric ton = 2,204.6 pounds) of milled rice. The ruling is expected to remain in effect for several months. The restriction was imposed because of a general shortage of food grains and the belief that the official estimate of the 1955 crop is too high.

A preliminary estimate of rice exports from Egypt in the 1955 calendar year is 186,000 metric tons as compared with 48,000 tons in 1954. Exports, during the 5-year period 1946-50, averaged 249,000 tons annually. Because of small crops, exports in 1952 and 1953 were only 16,000 tons and 617 tons, respectively.

NEW ZEALAND SEED MARKETS WEAKENING FOR LACK OF BUYERS

The New Zealand seed market remains quiet because of lack of buying interest. Farmers are holding a larger than normal proportion of the supplies. Production and quality are indicated to be good.

Prices to farmers are: White clover, mother, per lb. 63 $\frac{1}{2}$; Permanent pasture, 59 $\frac{1}{2}$; uncertified, 56 $\frac{1}{2}$ -- Ryegrass, certified perennial, mother, per bu., \$2.10; Permanent pasture, \$2.03; Ryegrass, H1, mother, per bu., \$2.10; standard, \$1.96; Ryegrass, Italian, mother, per bu., \$2.10; standard, \$1.96 -- Browntop, per lb., 70 $\frac{1}{2}$ -- Orchardgrass, per lb., (rough dressed) 42 $\frac{1}{2}$ -- Lupins, per bu., \$2.45 - Red clover, per lb., 24 $\frac{1}{2}$.

**SWITZERLAND HAS INCREASE
IN RICE IMPORTS**

Switzerland in 1955 imported 42,926,000 pounds of rice, a gain of over 39,857,000 pounds as compared to the previous year. Three-fourths of all imports came from Italy, historically the principal source of supply. The volume imported from the United States was 45 percent less than in 1954. Rice imports, mostly milled, of 4,752,000 pounds were received from Western Germany, a new source of supply. These were re-exports.

SWITZERLAND: Rice imports, average 1936-40, annual 1951-1955

Country of origin	Average: 1936-40	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Italy	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Semi-milled.....	24,242	11,286	11,411	26,165	19,446	25,966
Milled.....	1,278	12,632	12,134	18,941	12,438	6,363
Total.....	25,520	23,918	23,545	45,106	31,884	32,329
United States	:	:	:	:	:	:
Semi-milled.....	9	0	66	113	9	2,204
Milled.....	6,101	5,454	1,883	7,470	6,933	1,586
Total.....	6,110	5,454	1,949	7,583	6,942	3,790
Egypt	:	:	:	:	:	:
Semi-milled.....	5,218	0	0	0	0	86
Milled.....	1,081	0	0	0	0	0
Total.....	6,299	0	0	0	0	86
Germany	:	:	:	:	:	:
Semi-milled.....	0	0	0	0	0	99
Milled.....	2	1/	16	1/	1/	4,653
Total.....	2	1/	16	1/	1/	4,752
Thailand	:	:	:	:	:	:
Semi-milled.....	2,821	0	0	0	0	0
Milled.....	4,678	841	12	486	777	708
Total.....	7,499	841	12	486	777	708
Other countries	:	:	:	:	:	:
Semi-milled.....	8,332	2,199	43	0	3	11
Milled.....	4,832	542	99	2	251	1,250
Total.....	13,164	2,741	142	2	254	1,261
Total all rice	:	:	:	:	:	:
Semi-milled.....	40,622	13,485	11,520	26,278	19,458	28,366
Milled.....	17,972	19,469	14,144	26,899	20,399	14,560
Total.....	58,594	32,954	25,664	53,177	39,857	42,926

1/ Less than 500 pounds.

Source: Jahresstatistik des Aussenhandels der Schweiz.

AUSTRALIAN BEAN SEED PRODUCTION DOWN

Australia forecasts production of French Bean seed in Australia and Norfolk Island at 20,000 bushels, compared with 32,000 bushels in 1954-55. Wet weather is the reason given for the short crop.

Estimates of the production of stringless bean seed for the canners is not yet available but the crop is believed to have suffered from the same adverse conditions.

IMPROVEMENT OF PROCESSING OF COFFEE IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

For years one of the more serious problems in coffee production has been quality control. This has applied particularly to areas of peasant-farmer production where lack of transport and adequate water supplies for depulping and washing have been serious handicaps to acceptable preparation.

The Dominican Republic, among others, recognizing the seriousness of this problem and the necessity of good trade acceptance, has recently enacted legislation which attempts to raise the standards of all coffee preparation and improve the quality of all coffee exports.

This legislation incorporates many suggestions of principal exporters who are acutely aware of the competition that Dominican coffee encounters on the New York market. A system of new roads is under construction linking coffee growing areas with processing centers and ports. Warehousing or storage of coffee is prohibited, except by processors fully equipped to properly prepare and store coffee for export. Delivery of coffee below legal minimum standards is penalized.

IBC REPORTS COFFEE REGISTRATIONS THROUGH MARCH 31

The Brazilian Coffee Institute (IBC) reports registrations through March 31 of 20.5 million bags for the 1955-56 crop. This report places registrations within 100,000 bags of the latest USDA forecast of 20.6 million bags. It is reported that registrations to June 30 and post-season may increase registrations for the 1955-56 crop above present registrations by 3 to 6 percent.

CUBAN HENEQUEN
PRODUCTION DECREASES

Production of decorticated henequen fiber in Cuba decreased to about 19,268,000 pounds in 1955 from a total of 31,742,000 in 1954. (See Table I.) Most of the decline was due to a reduction in the acreage harvested, but yields were also reported to be below normal as a result of dry weather during the first half of 1955. Producers report that they intend to further reduce fiber production by about 3 million pounds in 1956 unless there is considerable improvement in market prices.

The total area in henequen under cultivation in Cuba is estimated at 22,300 acres at the end of 1955, compared with 32,053 a year earlier. Only 14,100 acres were harvested in 1955, compared with 21,290 acres in 1954. The decline is attributed to a combination of unfavorable market prices and labor trouble.

Table I. -- Cuba: Henequen area and production

Calendar years	Area	Fiber production	
	In crop	Harvested	1,000 pounds
	Acres	Acres	
1954 1/.....	32,053	21,290	31,742
1955 2/.....	22,300	14,100	19,268

1/ Revised.

2/ Preliminary.

Compiled from reports from producers.

Table II. -- Cuba: Henequen fiber supply and distribution

Supply and distribution	Calendar years	
	1954 1/	1955 2/
	million pounds	million pounds
Stocks, January 1.....	4.16	5.78
Production.....	31.74	19.27
Imports.....	-	-
Total supply.....	35.90	25.05
Consumption.....	13.69	14.00
Exports.....	16.43	9.43
Stocks, December 31.....	5.78	1.62
Total distribution.....	35.90	25.05

1/ Revised.

2/ Preliminary.

Compiled from reports from producers and cordage mills and from cargo manifests.

Stocks in the hands of plantations and cordage mills totalled 5.78 million pounds at the beginning of 1955, compared with 4.16 million at the beginning of the previous year. (See Table II.) Producers held larger than normal stocks because of declining prices on the New York market during December, 1954. Stocks of henequen were reported at only 1.62 million pounds on December 31, 1955, compared with 5.78 million a year earlier. The large decline was the result of smaller production and larger consumption of fiber in Cuba during the past year.

Exports of henequen were reported at only 9.43 million pounds in 1955, or a decline of 7.0 million from the 16.43 million exported in 1954. All raw fiber exports were destined for markets in the United States in 1955. In the preceding year 16.3 million pounds were exported to the United States, 0.1 million to the Dominican Republic, and the small quantity of 11,000 pounds to Germany.

Exports of cordage amounted to 6.9 million pounds in 1955, or an increase of 23 percent over the 5.6 million exported in 1954. Exports of cordage were heaviest in the second quarter of the year when a total of 3.0 million pounds were exported. Heaviest exports of fiber were in the first quarter, when 4.8 million pounds, or more than half of the year's total, were reported. Of the total of 6.9 million pounds of cordage exported in 1955, 6.8 million were shipped to the United States and the other 0.1 million to Panama, Ecuador, and Canada.

Consumption of raw henequen fiber by Cuban cordage mills gained 0.3 million pounds over the 13.7 million pounds consumed in 1954, and reached 14.0 million pounds. The closing down of cordage mills in Mexico is reported to have created an increased market for Cuban manufactured cordage.

NIGERIA RAISES MANY IMPORT DUTIES, ELIMINATES DUTIES ON CURED MEATS

Effective February 24 the Federation of Nigeria increased import duties on many items (including certain luxury items), but eliminated the duty on all meat and meat preparations and on all uncanned fish. However, effective March 15 the duty on all canned and bottled meats and preparations was restored to the former rate of 4 pence per pound (4-1/2 cents). The duty has been eliminated on all meats not in tins, jars, bottles and cartons or similar receptacles (former duty 3-1/2 cents per pound). Fresh and cold storage meats continue to be on the free list.

The import duty on unmanufactured tobacco for cigarettes has been raised from 10 shillings to 15 shillings per pound. Other unmanufactured tobacco (including black fat), has been raised from 10 shillings to 12 shillings 6 pence per pound.

The Nigerian tariff rates apply equally to all countries. The reason given for the duty increases is the need for additional revenue for development and other expanded programs, particularly since the recent drop in world cocoa prices. The additional revenue is estimated to yield about \$11.2 million. One half of it will be retained by the Federal Government and one-half distributed among the Western, Eastern and Northern Region Governments. All revenue derived from the Southern Cameroons trust territory will be credited to that region.

RHODESIAN 1955 TRADE BALANCE WITH AUSTRALIA FAVORABLE

Exports for 1955 to Australia from the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland amounted to about \$14 million and consisted chiefly of tobacco and some asbestos. Imports from Australia were valued at about \$5.6 million, mainly wheat and condensed and powdered milk, plus moderate quantities of tallow, canned vegetables, butter and tools and hardware. Australia is the principal source of wheat imports by the Federation.

An agreement is reported to have been reached by the Australian Government and the Dutch shipping company, Royal Intercean Lines, to provide regular shipping service between Australian and East African ports. The first ship is scheduled to leave East African ports the latter part of May. This new service is to replace the Australian Shaw-Savill Line, which will discontinue its service to East African ports in August, 1956.

WORLD AGRICULTURAL TRADE NOTES

Paraguayan Citrus Exporters Granted Special Treatment. By decree of the Central Bank of Paraguay exporters of citrus fruit may negotiate the foreign exchange earned on the open market at a rate of approximately 105 guarani to the dollar. The rate for all other exports is 60 guarani to the dollar. The reason given for this special treatment is that citrus exporters could not compete in the world market at the existing rate.

Argentina Negotiating Meat Sales to Russia. It is reported that Argentina is negotiating the sale of 22 million pounds of frozen beef and 22 million pounds of mutton with a Russian trade group. Almost 4 million pounds were bought by the Russians in the first few days of negotiations. Total Argentine sales of meat to Russia in 1954 were about 75 million pounds.

Chilean Wheat Imports Freed From Duty. In line with the Chilean Government's plan for holding the price of basic food commodities at the lowest possible level, an official decree was passed exempting all wheat imports made by INACO, the state trading agency, from customs duties during 1956. INACO has a monopoly on Chile's wheat imports.

Peru To Produce Part of Own Malt Requirements. Construction of a plant to produce malt from domestic barley has been started in Peru. This may lead to a decline in Peru's malt imports which were valued at about \$1.9 million in 1954, or 156 percent above those for 1950, and \$1.8 million in 1955. These imports have been coming primarily from the United States, Canada, Chile and Argentina. The United States supplied 16 percent of the total quantity imported in 1955.

Ecuador to triple fertilizer production. A new government-owned fertilizer factory is expected to begin production on the outskirts of Quito, Ecuador in July of this year. Using garbage and other waste as raw materials, it plans to turn out approximately 25 tons daily of complete organic fertilizer. There are two fertilizer plants now operating in Ecuador with a total estimated production of 3,500 tons per year. Thus, the new plant, if expectations are fulfilled, will triple Ecuador's present output of fertilizer. The principal use of fertilizer in Ecuador has been on sugarcane in the lowlands. Recently, however, grain farmers in the highlands have increased the use of fertilizers on wheat and other grains. The new plant located in Quito in the heart of the highland area may be expected to supply additional fertilizer for grain production. Ecuador is trying to expand its grain output and cut down on imports of wheat and flour.

Ecuador further restricts trade. Effective on March 24, fundamental changes were made in the basic tariff law of Ecuador which had been in operation since January 1, 1954. The new law has three basic purposes: 1. To increase the income from tariff duties to the level provided by the law in effect before January 1, 1954; 2. To diminish or abolish completely the increase in luxury imports, to foster imports of capital goods and essential consumer goods; and 3. To establish a more technical and complete tariff system. This action followed other restrictive measures promulgated earlier in March whereby a long list of products were prohibited entry altogether. The list included, among other things, processed meats, canned fruits and vegetables, fruit juices, macaroni and like products. The new measures are expected to result in decreased imports and a resultant saving of foreign exchange.

ITALY'S COTTON CONSUMPTION AND IMPORTS CONTINUE TO DECLINE

Italy's cotton consumption and imports during August-November 1955 continued the decline registered in the 1954-55 marketing year, with consumption down 14 percent from August-November 1954, and imports in the comparable period down 16 percent. Consumption in August-November 1955 amounted to 225,000 bales (500 pounds gross) as compared with 263,000 a year earlier, and imports were 163,000 bales as compared with 195,000 in the earlier period.

The United States continued to be the principal source of Italy's cotton in August-November 1955, with imports amounting to 38,000 bales or less than half the imports of 79,000 bales in August-November 1954. Declines were also registered in imports from Egypt, Brazil, and the U.S.S.R., offset by increased amounts from the Sudan, Greece, and Pakistan. Quantities imported in August-November 1955, with corresponding 1954 figures in parentheses were: Brazil 22,000 (27,000); Sudan 21,000 (9,000); Egypt 20,000 (28,000); Pakistan 11,000 (7,000); Greece 10,000 (400); Turkey 9,000 (6,000); the U.S.S.R. 4,000 (19,000); and Iran 3,000 (4,000).

Sales of Italian textiles and yarns in foreign markets have been somewhat spasmodic in recent months, and are quite low in comparison with earlier years (cloth exports down 45 percent from 1952, and yarn down 35 percent). Sales of cotton goods on the home market also are less than during previous years. The general economic situation in Italy has been steadily improving for several years, but the cotton textile sector has shown an accentuated decline in both its processing and trade. Cotton mills have been forced to reduce their output, and cotton goods once produced for export have to be sold on the domestic market at reduced prices.

Italy's cotton stocks on November 30, 1955, were estimated at 160,000 bales as compared with 159,000 bales on August 1, 1955.

SUMMARY OF COTTON EXPORTS AUTHORIZED BY P. L. 480 PROGRAMS

Several agreements for cotton exports have been signed recently with foreign countries, purchase authorizations issued, and time extensions granted for existing arrangements, under terms of Title I (sales for foreign currency) of Public Law 480, 83rd Congress. The time extensions were requested to enable countries to participate in the United States cotton export program for 1956-57, terms of which were announced April 17, 1956.

Agreements for cotton exports under P. L. 480 have been signed with Spain, Korea, and Chile, and purchase authorizations issued to Austria, Finland, and Indonesia since the list was last published in Foreign Crops and Markets, February 20, 1956. Time extensions, most of them to September 30, 1956, have been granted to Italy, Israel, and Colombia, and the countries participating in tripartite arrangements for processing of cotton allocated to Pakistan. The authorizations for Indonesia have been issued for about 31,000 bales (500 pounds gross) to be shipped direct. The agreement also includes an additional 175,000 bales to be processed in other countries. Purchase authorizations for the latter quantity have not yet been issued.

Cotton exports authorized under Title I, Public Law 480 (83rd Congress),
by funds allocated in fiscal years 1954-55 and 1955-56 to date
(Bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country of destination	Funds authorized	Cotton to be exported	Contracting period ends	Delivery period ends
	1,000 dollars	1,000 bales		
<u>Cotton purchase authorizations issued</u>				
<u>Fiscal year: 1/ 1954-55</u>				
Yugoslavia.....	9,726	54	3-31-56	4-30-56
Israel.....	1,125	6	8-31-55	9-30-55
Finland.....	2,900	15	9-30-55	11-18-55
Spain.....	8,500	43	2-29-56	3-31-56
Italy.....	36,600	183	6-30-56	9-30-56
Austria.....	510	3	9-30-55	12-31-55
Pakistan/UK.....	5,200	26	6-30-56	9-30-56
Pakistan/Hong Kong....	1,000	5	5-31-56	6-30-56
Pakistan/Lebanon....	600	3	6-30-56	9-30-56
Pakistan/Germany....	1,500	8	6-30-56	9-30-56
Pakistan/Belgium....	500	3	6-30-56	9-30-56
Pakistan/Japan....	9,700	49	6-30-56	9-30-56
Pakistan/Italy....	1,400	7	6-30-56	9-30-56
Pakistan/France....	840	4	6-30-56	9-30-56
Pakistan/Netherlands..	700	4	6-30-56	9-30-56
Pakistan/Switzerland..	1,000	5	6-30-56	9-30-56
Korea.....	9,400	47	12-31-55	2-29-56
Japan.....	35,000	175	12-5-55	1-15-56
Total 1954-55....	126,201	640	-	-
<u>1955-56</u>				
Colombia.....	1,635	8	11-30-55	12-15-55
Ecuador.....	946	5	5-15-56	6-15-56
Israel.....	1,532	9	6-30-56	9-30-56
Colombia.....	6,137	34	6-30-56	9-30-56
Yugoslavia.....	8,500	49	5-31-56	6-30-56
Austria.....	5,716	32	6-30-56	9-30-56
Spain.....	237	1.3	6-30-56	9-30-56
Finland.....	2,860	16.3	11-30-56	12-31-56
Indonesia.....	5,721	31.4	6-30-56	9-30-56
Total 1955-56....	33,284	186	-	-

Agreements signed but no purchase authorizations issued

Burma.....	17,500	100	
Indonesia.....	30,279	174.6	
Spain.....	24,500	140	
Korea.....	7,800	45	
Chile.....	5,260	30	

1/ The listing of countries applies to the fiscal year in which funds were allocated and not necessarily to the year of export.

URUGUAY'S COTTON IMPORTS DROP SLIGHTLY

Uruguay's cotton imports of 16,000 bales (500 pounds gross) during the first 5 months (August-December) of the 1955-56 marketing year represented a slight decrease from imports of 17,000 bales in August-December 1954. Most of Uruguay's cotton is from Brazil with smaller quantities from Peru and, in some years, Paraguay. Quantities imported in August-December 1955, with comparable 1954 figures in parentheses were: Brazil 14,000 bales (12,000); Peru 2,000 (2,000); and Paraguay none (3,000).

Cotton production in Uruguay amounts to only a small portion of annual requirements, the crop being estimated at approximately 1,000 bales in the August-July 1954-55 year. The 1955-56 crop, harvested during March and April 1956, is expected to be about the same as the previous year. Withdrawal of Government assistance for the 1955-56 crop may cause some growers to shift to production of other more profitable crops in 1956-57.

The decline in cotton consumption reported during the first half of 1955 continued during the balance of the year, with consumption averaging about 2,000 bales per month during August-December. Consumption in August-July 1954-55 was estimated at 37,000 bales, or a average of about 3,000 bales per month. The decline was attributed primarily to reduced consumer purchasing power. There are 10 spinning mills presently in operation. Approximately 900 bales of cotton were destroyed by fire during August-December 1955.

Cotton stocks on December 31, 1955, were estimated at 30,000 bales as compared with 24,000 bales held on August 1, 1955.

AUSTRALIA'S COTTON IMPORTS BELOW LAST YEAR

Cotton imports into Australia during the first 5 months (August-December) of the 1955-56 marketing year amounted to 32,000 bales (500 pounds gross), down 14 percent from imports of 37,000 bales in the corresponding period of 1954-55. Declines were registered in imports from the United States and Brazil which were partially offset by a sharp increase in imports from Mexico.

Quantities imported in the current period, with comparable figures for August-December 1954 in parentheses were: United States 12,000 bales (20,000); Pakistan 9,000 (8,000); Mexico 8,500 (100); India 1,400 (300); Egypt 400 (800); Peru 300 (300); and Brazil 200 (7,400).

Australia's cotton mill consumption during August-December 1955 averaged nearly 8,000 bales per month, increasing moderately from the annual rate of 87,000 bales in August-July 1954-55. An additional 2,000 bales annually are used in woolen mills, and another 1,000 bales in other uses. No major expansion of the cotton spinning industry is anticipated at the present time, the majority of the cotton goods being imported from the United Kingdom, with lesser amounts from India and Japan.

Cotton production in Australia amounts to only about 5 percent of raw cotton consumption. Production in 1954-55 was estimated at 4,300 bales and harvested acreage at 13,000 acres. Planted acreage for 1955-56 is expected to be about the same as the previous year, although production may increase if growing conditions are favorable. The 1954-55 crop was considerably reduced by excessive rainfall.

Australia's cotton stocks on August 1, 1955, were estimated at 27,000 bales as compared with 25,000 bales held a year earlier. Stocks on December 31, 1955, were reduced to about 24,000 bales.

TRANSSHIPMENTS OF MEXICAN COTTON, FEBRUARY 1956

Transshipments of Mexican cotton through United States ports in February 1956 amounted to 146,000 bales (500 pounds gross) increasing 14 percent from January transshipments of 128,000 bales, and more than twice the quantity of 57,000 bales transshipped in February 1955. Transshipment data for Mexican cotton include cotton linters, waste, and hull fiber, but do not include cotton shipped directly from Mexican ports to foreign destinations, or rail shipments through the United States to Canada.

Transshipments during the 7-month period, August-February 1955-56 amounted to 921,000 bales, an increase of 49 percent from the 619,000 bales transshipped in August-February 1954-55. A sharp increase was shown in transshipments to Western Germany, with moderate increases for the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Sweden, Italy, Switzerland, Australia, and Indonesia.

Quantities transshipped to principal destinations in August-February 1955-56, with corresponding 1954-55 figures in parentheses were: Western Germany 216,000 bales (104,000); Japan 164,000 (162,000); United Kingdom 137,000 (85,000); the Netherlands 101,000 (83,000); Belgium 84,000 (100,000); Sweden 50,000 (19,000); Italy 46,000 (14,000); Switzerland 20,000 (18,000); Australia 19,000 (none); France 17,000 (13,000); and Indonesia 11,000 (none).

PLASTIC COATINGS FOR SOUTH AFRICAN CITRUS DENIED

Recurrent reports that South Africa planned to start exporting citrus fruit in plastic coatings this season have been denied by the South African Citrus Board.

The Board has been supervising research involving the use of plastics (polyethelene and polyvinal chloride), but the intention was to envelope whole cases, not individual fruit, in plastic materials. Even then, shipments would be experimental and would bring no spectacular changes in packaging methods. The need for special fruit trucks and pre-cooling or refrigerated shipping space would not be eliminated.

It is expected that results with plastics will not justify the expense involved, as was the case with similar experiments using transparent cellulose sheeting and a rubberized compound.

SOUTH AFRICAN PINEAPPLE PRODUCTION BOOSTED

South African banana growers in the Natal area are reportedly converting their banana plantations into pineapple production. The plantations have required heavy applications of fertilizer and banana prices in general have been unremunerative. They hope that a cannery will be attracted to this region to handle the pineapples and that an export trade in fresh fruit will be developed.

SOUTH AFRICAN CANNING INDUSTRY'S GROWTH

During the past 20 years South Africa has become one of the world's three leading exporters (others are United States and Australia) of canned fruit, vegetables, and fish. Production of canned fruit alone in 1953 reached 2 3/4 million cases, which was ten times the amount produced before the war. South Africa exports approximately 60 per cent of her tinned food products.

FRENCH PRODUCTION OF ANIMAL FATS INCREASE

Commercial production of lard and tallow in France in 1955 is estimated at about 68.4 and 147.4 million pounds, respectively, a moderate increase in both products from a year earlier. In 1954 commercial production of lard and tallow was estimated at 62.0 and 144.8 million pounds.

Consumption of lard in France, including farm and home production, is estimated to be between 110 and 135 million pounds per year. The French seem to prefer other fats in the home, and use lard largely in the manufacture of food products, except in parts of eastern France, where it is used in home cooking. Efforts to improve the quality of French lard are being made which may make it more acceptable in the local market.

France regularly exports lard and in 1955 exported a total of 29.1 million pounds, principally to West Germany and French Overseas Territories. The Government gives a direct subsidy to the exporter of 14.5 francs per kilogram (1.9 cents per pound) on exports of unrefined lard and 2.5 percent of the invoice value on exports of refined lard. The Government also gives to the lard manufacturer a percentage refund of payroll taxes and social security charges equivalent to the percentage that his exports are to his total production. In addition, the Meat Market Rehabilitation Fund pays a subsidy on lard exports, which varies from time to time. In mid-January 1956, the subsidy was 50 francs per kilo (6.5 cents per pound). Unrefined lard shipped to Germany was quoted in the French press of January 23, 1956, at 84 francs per kilogram (10.9 cents per pound) free at the frontier. French imports of lard in 1955 were only 85,979 pounds.

Very little tallow is exported or imported by France. During 1955 the United States supplied France with nearly all of its total tallow importation of 5.7 million pounds. This was an increase over 1954 imports but was only a small percentage of France's total consumption.

BELGIUM'S TALLOW AND LARD PRODUCTION DECLINE IN 1955

Tallow and lard production in Belgium in 1955 is estimated at about 37.4 and 30.3 million pounds, respectively. This is somewhat below the previous year when tallow production was placed at 37.8 million pounds and commercial lard output at 29.6 million.

In 1955 net exports of lard totaled 8.2 million pounds as compared to 7.2 million in 1954. Lard imports last year were principally from the Netherlands and the United States, and exports mainly to Eastern European countries.

Net imports of tallow totaled 23.6 million pounds in 1955 as compared with 16.0 million a year earlier. Tallow is principally imported from the United States, which supplied 92 percent of the total quantity. Exports were mainly to the Netherlands.

BELGIUM OPENS FUTURES MARKET
FOR CROSSBRED TYPE WOOL

A futures market for crossbred type wool was opened in Belgium on April 30, 1956, according to a recent announcement of the Exchange Committee (Association des Courtiers Pres la Bourse a Terme des Laines a Anvers).

The futures market will enable individuals or organizations associated with the wool industry to protect themselves against price fluctuations in crossbred wools. Dealers in merino type wools already have access to price protection on the existing terminal markets. Apparently these markets did not provide a high degree of price protection to dealers in crossbred wools.

The conditions and rules applicable to the new market, except for the appraisal margin, are similar to those of the "Antwerp Type" futures market, and are summarized as follows:

Standard Type a drycombed top, conditioned at 18-1/4 percent, fineness 48/50's, a produced from Australian wool shorn from living animals.

Unit of contract. 5,000 lbs. of tops

Quotation in pence per lb.

Fluctuations. minimum 1/8 d. per lb.

Quoted months the current and 11 subsequent months

Deposit 7 percent with a present minimum of 125 pounds sterling

Margins due in case of adverse price variations.

Commission. 1/2 percent on the purchase and/or sale.

Brokerage 1/4 percent on the sale only.

Sundry charges. 1/8 percent on the purchase and/or sale of orders originating from foreign operators. Tax: 5 percent on the amount of the charged commission.

Appraisal Any depreciation exceeding 4 percent shall entail the rejection of the top. Any appreciation exceeding 4 percent is for the buyer's account.

The top must be combed in an approved combing mill, and until further notice be stored in an approved warehouse in Belgium.

HOG CASING EXPORTS
TO U. K. INCREASE

United States exports of hog casings to the United Kingdom have increased materially in the past 3 years. The United Kingdom is the largest export outlet.

During 1955 the United Kingdom imported 4.2 million pounds of hog casings of which nearly 3.5 million or 81 percent were from the United States. The United States supplied 74 percent of the imports during 1954. Denmark was the second largest supplier in each of these years.

UNITED KINGDOM: Imports of Hog Casings
1953-55

Country	1953	1954	1955
: - - - - 1,000 pounds - - - - :			
United States.....	2,407	2,847	3,462
Denmark.....	391	650	512
Canada.....	261	71	41
Other Commonwealth countries : and Irish Republic.....	39	19	15
Other foreign countries	125	236	190
Total	3,223	3,823	4,220

COLOMBIA INTERESTED
IN IMPORTING HOGS

The Department of Extension of Colombia is reported to be developing plans for the importation of a large number of hogs from the United States for breed improvement. Imports of around 5,000 head of the Poland-China, Duroc and Berkshire breeds are contemplated. It is reported that negotiations are now under way to bring in small numbers at first to study their adaptability before larger importations are made.

It is suggested that exporters of hogs who are interested contact Dr. Hernando Lora Martinez, Department of Extension, Bogota, Colombia.

ARGENTINE MEAT EXPORTS INCREASE SHARPLY

Argentine exports of meat rose sharply in 1955 and continued at a high level in early 1956.

Exports of frozen and chilled beef rose from 1,390,000 quarters in 1954 to 2,680,000 in 1955. Chilled beef carcasses made up more than 50 percent of the exports during 1955 compared with 6 percent in 1954. Exports of canned meats during 1955 totaled 259 million pounds, 23 million more than a year earlier and 82 million more than in 1953. Nearly 3.5 million lamb and mutton carcasses were exported in 1955 compared with less than 2.5 million in the previous year.

Exports of meat in 1956 have been limited by the availability of ships and limited canning facilities for increased production. Eight hundred thousand beef quarters were exported in the period January 1 - March 10, compared with 717,000 in January - March 1955. Exports of mutton and lamb carcasses through March 10 totaled 783,000, compared with 987,000 in the first 3 months of 1955. Canned meat exports totaled 35 million pounds in January 1 - March 10, compared with 49 million in the first quarter of 1955.

Chilled beef shipments to the United Kingdom in 1956 have been running at about the rate of 45 million pounds per month. Shipments to Germany and Greece are expected to begin soon. Italy and Switzerland have been buying boned meat. During the last two months of 1955 exports of canned meat totaled 300,000 cases, but in January and February 1956 they totaled more than 1 million cases.

A Soviet buying Mission was in Argentina in early April and was reported to be buying 22 million pounds of frozen beef and 22 million pounds of mutton through C.A.P. (The National Packing Company).

Argentina's National Meat Institute reported that domestic consumption of beef and veal in 1955 reached a record of 3.6 billion pounds. With the population estimated at 19.1 million, per capita beef and veal consumption was around 190 pounds. Around two-fifths of the total was consumed in the Federal Capital and the greater Buenos Aires Area. The record beef and veal consumption in the United States last year averaged 91 pounds per person.

Exports of beef, lamb and mutton and
canned meats from Argentina, 1953-56

Item	1953	1954	1955	1956
<u>(Thousand quarters)</u>				
<u>Frozen and chilled beef</u>				
Jan. - Mar.	650	544	717	<u>1/</u> 800
Apr. - June	134	317	250	:
July - Sept.	270	259	795	:
Oct. - Dec.	356	270	918	:
Total.....	<u>1,410</u>	<u>1,390</u>	<u>2,680</u>	:
<u>(Thousand quarters)</u>				
<u>Chilled beef 2/</u>				
Jan. - Mar.	-	53	242	<u>1/</u> 532
Apr. - June	-	37	97	:
July - Sept.	-	41	550	:
Oct. - Dec.	-	109	631	:
Total.....		<u>240</u>	<u>1,520</u>	:
<u>(Thousand carcasses)</u>				
<u>Lamb and mutton carcasses</u>				
Jan. - Mar.	626	490	987	<u>1/</u> 783
Apr. - June	563	828	645	:
July - Sept.	403	491	733	:
Oct. - Dec.	671	648	1,100	:
Total.....	<u>2,263</u>	<u>2,457</u>	<u>3,465</u>	:
<u>(Million pounds)</u>				
<u>Canned meats</u>				
Jan. - Mar.	63	48	49	<u>1/</u> 35
Apr. - June	44	78	69	:
July - Sept.	51	58	76	:
Oct. - Dec.	19	49	65	:
Total.....	<u>177</u>	<u>233</u>	<u>259</u>	:

1/ January through March 10.

2/ Included in above category.

FLUID MILK SUPPLY IN INDONESIA

A recent estimate places the daily fluid milk supply in Djakarta, capital of Indonesia, at about 11,350 pounds, or about 2 lbs. per person yearly. Peddlers from the city collect the milk from herd-owners of from 2 to 10 dual purpose cows in the surrounding area, bottle it themselves and deliver it to consumers by bicycle. The raw unrefrigerated milk retails for about 45.7 cents per quart and is often watered.

The situation is more favorable in the cities of Surabaja and Bandung, where larger dairy farms exist. The Bandung area produces 34,000 pounds per day; from the production, this city of 750,000 people has a surplus to ship to Djakarta.

Small amounts of milk are bottled by three small Government plants on a cooperative basis with local farmers. This is the only Indonesian produced milk subject to health inspection. The centers also maintain small herds of cattle for extension purposes.

MEAT PRICES RELATIVELY HIGH IN SWEDEN

Meat prices in Sweden are relatively high, and some products from the United States could move to that market if it were not for existing bilateral agreements and the close control being exercised over imports. These measures support prices to domestic livestock producers.

Wholesale prices and the quantities imported are controlled by the meat Export and Import Association. Most of the imported supplies are obtained from Denmark under-bilateral trade agreements.

Beef prices in Sweden are higher than in the United States and in many countries of the world. In early 1956 beef carcasses comparable to United States commercial grade were selling at wholesale in Stockholm for the equivalent of 34 cents per pound, fresh beef hearts 16 cents, and beef livers 36 cents.

Pork prices are also high in Sweden, but imports of pork from the United States are not permitted because of the presence of hog cholera in the United States. In early 1956 pork sausage meat at wholesale was bringing the equivalent of 35 cents a pound in Stockholm.

Swedish import duties on meat are small, but import fees on beef hearts and beef livers are equivalent to 6 cents per pound. The import fees on beef and pork sausage meat amount to 2 cents per pound.

Wholesale Prices, Import Duties and Import Taxes on Certain Meat Items
in Sweden January 15, 1956, and Prices of Comparable
Items at Chicago May 2, 1956.

Item	Wholesale Price	Wholesale	Swedish	Swedish	
	Stockholm	Price Chicago	Import Duty	Import Taxes	
	Swedish Kronor per Kg.	Equiv. U.S. Cents per lb. 1/	Cents per pound	Ore per Kg.	Cents per Lb.
Beef carcass (Commercial)....	3.90	34.2	28.5	7 .006	:
Beef carcass (Utility).....	3.70	32.4	24.0	7 .006	:
Mutton, yearling....	5.20	45.6	:	7 .006	:
Pork, carcass 200#..	4.15	36.4	:	12 .011	:
Beef hearts, fresh..	1.80	15.8	11.0	7 .006	70 .061
Beef livers, fresh..	4.15	36.4	14.5	7 .006	70 .061
Sausage meat, beef..	3.60	31.6	25.0	:	25 .022
Sausage meat, pork..	4.00	35.1	11.5	:	25 .022

1/ 1 kronor = 19.333 cents; 100 ore = 1 kronor.

FIRST QUARTER MILK
PRODUCTION IN CANADA

Canadian milk production for the first quarter of 1956 showed little change from the same period in 1955. Farmers were able to keep adequate feed supplies at hand except in some areas of the Prairie Provinces, where blocked roads interfered with transportation. In other parts of Canada, the feed situation was normal, and it is believed that dairy herds came through the winter in fair condition.

The utilization pattern was practically unchanged from the previous year with dairy factories continuing to receive heavy quantities. In January-March, 1956, as in January-March 1955, approximately 73 percent of manufacturing milk was utilized for butter.

ICE CREAM PROSPECTS IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

A considerable increase in ice cream production in the Dominican Republic is reported possible as a result of the United States Department of Agriculture's participation in the Dominican Trade Fair, held on the Island recently. Several Dominican interests and two American visitors to the Fair have expressed the intention of going into the manufacture of soft ice cream from United States dairy products exports to the Island. The soft ice cream made by the U.S. exhibitors was made from a 6 percent butterfat mix. Some soft ice cream currently being produced in the Republic is made from a mix containing only 2 percent fat.

The ice cream machinery used in the U.S. exhibit is expected to be sold in the Republic. One of the bidders on the equipment is a bakery concern which wishes to add ice cream to its line.

Dominican hotels report an increase in the requests for United States dairy products as a result of more American tourists visiting the Republic. Moderate increases in dairy products imports from tourist demand could lead to a larger consumption of the products among Dominican residents.

PERU TO IMPORT BREEDING CATTLE

The Agricultural Bank of Peru is interested in importing 3 lots of cattle, each consisting of 15 cows and 1 bull of the Hereford, Aberdeen Angus and Brangus breeds. If and when such shipments are obtained, the Bank proposes to divide the cattle into smaller lots, for controlled experiments in typical costal valleys to determine which of the breeds offers the greatest possibilities. After this has been determined the Bank proposes to import 1 or 2 larger lots of around 300 head each, for an extended program. This will be a commercial purchase using funds obtained under a loan of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The Agricultural bank also contemplates imports of 250 head of Brown Swiss cattle at a later date.

The preference for the initial shipment is registered cattle of good commercial quality. Young cows bred for second calf and bulls 12 to 18 months of age are prefered.

Offers for the sale of cattle to the Agricultural Bank of Peru may be addressed to Mr. George Day, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Lima, Peru; The Agricultural Bank, Lima, Peru; or Herman C. Aabert, Livestock Director, Commodity Department, American Farm Bureau Federation, Room 2300, Merchandise Mart, Chicago 54, Illinois.

WORLD COTTON PRODUCTION ESTIMATE REDUCED FROM JANUARY

World cotton production in 1955-56, now estimated at 39.3 million bales (500 pounds gross weight), is a record high, but is only slightly larger than the previous record crops of 39.1 and 39.0 million bales in 1953-54 and 1937-38, respectively. The present estimate, based on latest available information, is 1.0 million bales lower than the 1955-56 estimate released last January, due principally to unfavorable weather and insect damage in Egypt, India, and the Soviet Union. Indicated production in 1955-56 exceeds the revised 1954-55 production of 38.6 million bales by 2 percent.

The United States cotton crop of 14.7 million bales in 1955 (May 1956 report) is 1.0 million bales larger than the 1954 crop and 0.6 million bales above the 5-year average for 1950-54. United States cotton acreage has been steadily reduced in the last 5 years from 26.9 million acres harvested in 1951-52 to 16.9 million in 1955-56. Acreage controls were in effect during 1954-55 and 1955-56 in an effort to adjust production to market demand, but there was not a proportionate reduction in the crops due to record high yields per acre. The 1956 acreage will be restricted under present legislation to 17.4 million acres for all types, a reduction of 0.7 million from the 1955 allotments. With normal underplantings and abandonment, the acreage harvested in 1956 may be the smallest in 75 years.

While the United States has restricted cotton acreage, most foreign countries have sharply increased the area planted to cotton. Foreign Free World countries increased from 39.6 million acres in 1953-54 to 45.6 million acres in 1955-56, with an accompanying rise in production from 13.9 to 15.9 million bales in the 3-year period. Communist countries (principally the Soviet Union and China) have more than doubled cotton production since World War II. Soviet production in 1955 was reportedly 9 percent below 1954 due mostly to unfavorable weather. This is borne out by the fact that exports to Communist bloc countries from the Foreign Free World increased substantially in early months of 1955-56 and imports into Western Europe from the Soviet Union declined.

Production of Egyptian-type cotton declined slightly in 1955-56 from a year earlier. Egypt's 1955 crop, now estimated at 1.5 million bales, is down considerably from earlier estimates as a result of extensive cotton leaf worm damage despite a 15 percent increase in acreage. In contrast, Sudan and Peru, reduced acreage by 10 and 13 percent, respectively, from 1954, but higher yields resulted in a slight increase in production to 0.9 million bales for the two countries combined.

COTTON: Acreage and production in specified areas, averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1953-55 1/

Continent and country	Acreage			Production 2/		
	Average 1935-39	1945-49	1953	Average 1935-39	1945-49	1953
1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales
NORTH AMERICA						
El Salvador	9:	35:	54:	73:	110:	5:
Guatemala	-	8:	27:	39:	52:	2:
Mexico	725:	1,034:	1,860:	1,820:	2,600:	334:
Nicaragua	9:	11:	100:	190:	230:	5:
United States	27,788:	21,258:	24,341:	19,251:	16,928:	13,149:
British West Indies	20:	12:	13:	14:	-	5:
Haiti	-	37:	40:	50:	-	3:
Total 4/	28,642:	22,403:	26,442:	21,444:	19,993:	13,523:
EUROPE						
Bulgaria 5/	85:	82:	-	-	-	-
Greece	168:	111:	220:	270:	410:	35:
Italy	56:	40:	65:	100:	133:	21:
Rumania 5/	8:	102:	-	-	2:	-
Spain	46:	130:	217:	267:	406:	10:
Yugoslavia	8:	-	18:	29:	35:	3:
Total 4/	372:	511:	895:	1,031:	1,349:	147:
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	5,087:	3,697:	-	-	-	-
ASIA						
Aden	-	-	22:	33:	-	-
Cyprus	11:	5:	13:	13:	-	-
Iran	453:	239:	555:	620:	650:	171:
Iraq	53:	22:	51:	100:	100:	11:
Syria	85:	59:	370:	463:	500:	28:
Turkey	667:	615:	1,495:	1,440:	1,520:	249:
Afghanistan	-	-	100:	150:	-	49:
Burma	428:	178:	400:	450:	450:	97:
China (incl. Manchuria)	7,038:	5,831:	10,200:	9,600:	-	2,855:
French Indochina	36:	-	-	-	-	-
India	6/ 24,204:	11,306:	17,182:	18,350:	19,525:	5,348:
Korea 7/	564:	344:	305:	296:	276:	198:
Indonesia	27:	-	-	-	-	9:
Pakistan	6/	2,965:	2,930:	3,185:	3,100:	6/
Thailand	16:	84:	100:	100:	-	-
Total 4/	33,805:	21,827:	33,766:	34,864:	36,698:	9,038:

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SOUTH AMERICA	
Argentina.....	5,562:
Brazil.....	4,520:
Colombia.....	98:
Ecuador.....	40:
Paraguay.....	111:
Peru.....	428:
Venezuela.....	50:
Total 4/.....	7,060:
AFRICA AND OCEANIA	:
Sudan.....	439:
Belgian Congo.	874:
Kenya.....	-:
Nyasaland.....	84:
Tanganyika.....	-:
Uganda.....	1,477:
Canary Islands	-:
Egypt.....	1,821:
French Equatorial Africa.	390:
French North Africa.	1:
French West Africa.	-:
Mozambique.....	-:
Nigeria.....	-:
Angola.....	73:
Southern Rhodesia.....	2:
Union of South Africa.	-:
Australia.....	53:
Total 4/.....	6,176:
World total 4/.....	81,112:
Foreign Free World....	41,135:
Communist countries...	12,219:

1/ Years refer to crop years, beginning August 1, in which major portion of crop was harvested. 2/ Production in bales of 478 pounds net prior to 1946 and 480 pounds thereafter. 3/ Preliminary. 4/ Includes estimates for minor-producing countries not listed above and allowances for other figures not available. 5/ Figures for 1943 to date are not comparable with prewar figures because of boundary changes. 6/ Pakistan included with India. 7/ South Korea only, after 1941. 8/ Less than 500. 9/ Exports.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics, reports of United States Agricultural Attaches and other United States representatives abroad and results of office research.

Countries producing the Asiatic type short-staples, mainly India, Pakistan, and Burma, as a group reported a decrease in cotton production in 1955, of 0.6 million bales or 10 percent from the previous year. Practically all the reduction occurred in India where damage from excessive rains last fall cut production to 3.8 million bales compared with 4.4 million bales in 1954-55, even though the 1955-56 acreage of 19.5 million was 6 percent above a year earlier.

Cotton produced in the remaining foreign non-Communist countries is similar to, and generally competitive with, American Upland types. These countries as a whole increased acreage and production by 9 percent in 1955-56 over the previous season, continuing the rise that has taken place during the past 10 years. As a result of excessive rainfall and insect damage, production increases in Mexico and most Central American countries in 1955-56 only partially reflected the considerable expansion of acreage from a year earlier. Although earlier estimates for Brazil have been reduced because of lower than expected yields, production of 1.8 million bales was larger by 9 percent than in 1954-55.

In the Near East, insects and plant diseases have reduced yields, particularly in Turkey and Iran. Syria, however, is making significant progress in nearly all phases of cotton production and marketing in an effort to improve the competitive position of the American Upland type cotton produced there. African countries producing this type maintained acreage at about 5.4 million acres in 1955-56 while production increased about 6 percent from a year earlier, to 1.3 million bales. Particularly good yields were obtained in Uganda and Mozambique.

No further increase in foreign cotton production is expected in 1956-57, and production may even show a slight decline, although it is too early to make an accurate estimate. Early reports indicate that acreage is being reduced in Mexico, Central America and Egypt. A return to normal yields in Central America and Egypt, however, should maintain production at about the same level as in 1955-56 when adverse conditions curbed yields substantially. The decline in world cotton prices in 1955 may result in acreage reduction in some foreign countries in 1956.

ITALY'S TRADE IN BUTTER AND CHEESE

Italy's imports of butter in 1955 continued the downward trend which has been evident for several years. Imports in 1955 dropped to 12.7 million pounds, as compared to 14.2 million pounds in 1954 and 21.1 million pounds in 1953. Argentina was again the chief supplier with 3.5 million pounds (4.8 million pounds in 1954, 5.1 million pounds in 1953). Denmark shipped 2.2 million pounds, (2.1 million pounds in 1954, 1.7 million pounds in 1953). Other sources in 1955 were Sweden, Australia, and New Zealand.

Cheese imports, which had been increasing steadily since 1951, dropped sharply in 1955, following an increase in import duties on most types (See Foreign Crops and Markets, September 5, 1955). Overall imports in 1955 were down from 57.5 to 43.1 million lbs. As in earlier years, Switzerland was the principal supplier. Imports from that country totaled 13.1 million pounds, compared with 13.0 million pounds in 1954 and 10.6 million pounds in 1953. Imports from Denmark, one of the larger shippers in previous years, declined in 1955 to 9.8 million pounds, as compared to 23.5 million pounds in 1954 and 25.3 million pounds in 1953. Netherlands' share in Italian imports in 1955 was also considerably smaller than in earlier years.

Exports of cheese from Italy in 1955 amounted to 43.4 million pounds, an increase of 15 percent over each of the two earlier years. The largest shipments were made to the United States; 21.3 million pounds in 1955, 20.6 million pounds in 1954 and 19.8 million pounds in 1953. Other important markets were Switzerland, France and the United Kingdom.

INCREASED FLUID MILK UTILIZATION IN ICELAND

During 1955, 119.5 million pounds of milk, representing about two-thirds of the total production, were delivered to Iceland's nine dairies. This represents an increase of 3.5 percent over the previous year's deliveries. Approximately 62 percent of this total was retailed as fluid milk and cream. The remainder was used for the manufacture of 1.5 million pounds of butter, 897,000 pounds of cheese, 351,000 pounds of evaporated milk, and 104,000 pounds of dried whole milk. Production of all of the whole milk manufactured products showed slight decreases from 1954.

The increased cream output, however, resulted in higher output of skim milk products in 1955. The casein industry utilized 8.3 million pounds of skim milk, an increase of 22 percent over 1954, and production of non-fat dry milk solids was almost 3 times the 159,000 pounds produced during 1954.

Apparently the wet summer and resulting poor quality hay crop, did not adversely affect Icelandic milk production.

ARGENTINE TUNG OIL SUPPLY SLIGHTLY
LARGER THAN LAST YEAR'S

Argentina's current production of tung oil from 1955-crop nuts is approximately 1,000 short tons a month, or an estimated total for the year of 12,125 tons. This is only slightly less than oil production from 1954-crop nuts, estimated at 13,230 tons. With an estimated carry-in on November 1, 1955, the beginning of the marketing year, of about 10,000 tons, total supply for 1955-56 was about 22,000 tons.

Exports from November 1, 1955 through March 31, 1956 are estimated at 6,600 tons. Deducting 1,100 tons for domestic use leaves about 14,300 tons for export and/or carryout on October 31, 1956.

Table 1 - ARGENTINA: Tung Oil - Estimated supply and demand,
1954-55 and 1955-56

	(Short tons)	
	1954-55 1/	1955-56
Supply	:	:
Carryin, November 1	7,710	9,920
Production.....	13,230	12,125
Total.....	20,940	22,045
Distribution	:	:
Exports.....	9,920	2/ 6,615
Domestic use.....	1,100	1,100
Available for export and/or carryout, October 31	9,920	14,330
Total.....	20,940	22,045

1/ Revised. 2/ Estimated exports, November 1, 1955- March 31, 1956.

Source: Unofficial estimates. Subject to revision.

Stocks of old crop tung oil still held by the National Grain and Elevators Institute (INGE) early in May were reported at 3,300 tons of which 1,300 tons had been committed.

There is no official guaranteed price to producers this year for oil from 1955-crop nuts but the free market price is expected to average out at near the tentative support for oil from 1954-crop nuts of 7,313 pesos per metric ton delivered to Buenos Aires. The most recent INGE export sale of 1954-55 oil was completed for \$450 per metric ton (20.4 cents per pound) f.o.b.

The export acceptance price is currently \$415 per ton (18.8 cents) c.i.f. for which price the exporter receives 18 pesos per dollar less 10 percent retention. The amount shippers receive over that price is exchangeable at the free market rate.

Table 2 - ARGENTINA: Tung oil exports by destination,
November 1954-October 1955

(Short tons)

Country of destination	November 1954
	October 1955
United States.....	6,361
United Kingdom.....	2,149
The Netherlands.....	605
Germany.....	33
Canada.....	848
Chile.....	8
Total.....	10,004

Source: Frutos del País.

ITALY MAY REDUCE OILSEED DUTIES

A temporary fifty-percent reduction of import duties on oilseeds reportedly has been approved by the Italian Cabinet, according to information received by the Foreign Agricultural Service. This action, however, will not be official or effective until an appropriate decree is published in the Official Gazette. It obviously represents an effort on the part of the Italian Government to maximize availabilities of seed oils during the current olive oil shortage and keep down domestic prices - at the same time providing more work for Italian seed crushers.

Currently effective ad valorem import duties on some oilseeds are as follows: Soybeans and castor beans, 5 percent; peanuts and sesame seed, 8 percent; flaxseed, cottonseed, mustard, rape and sunflowerseed, 10 percent. There is no report of an intention to reduce the processing tax on seed oils (designed to protect olive oil prices in normal years), which tax probably exerts a greater influence on the prices of oil than do the import duties.

GREECE BUILDS SEED
OIL STOCKS

The anticipated short crop of oil olives in 1955 (Foreign Crops and Markets, March 26) caused increased quantities of seed oils to be imported into Greece during late 1955 and early 1956. As a result, Government-held stocks which totaled 1,160 short tons on January 1 of this year, had grown to over 11,000 tons on April 1. This total included about 550 tons of cottonseed oil, the remainder being soybean oil.

Due to the high price of olive oil on the retail markets, there has been an increased consumption of seed oils and mixed cooking oils in Greece. These oils are offered at 12 to 16 cents per pound less than the price of pure olive oil.

Some prices which growers have received for their 1955 olive oil are as follows:

GREECE: Prices paid at two principal production centers,
for olive oil of 5 percent acidity

Month	Prices (cents/pound)	
	Crete	Mytilene
	:	:
November, 1955.....	20.3 - 25.6	22.8 - 28.3
December, 1955.....	23.0 - 25.4	27.3 - 29.4
January, 1956.....	24.2 - 25.4	28.3 - 29.2
February, 1956.....	24.8 - 25.4	28.8 - 29.2
March, 1956.....	23.6 - 24.2	28.3 - 29.2
	:	:

Source: "ELEOURGIKI" (Central Cooperative Organization of Olive Growers)

In late 1955, the Greek Government discontinued olive oil exports in order to prevent the lowering of the supply and the consequent rise in domestic prices.

LATE SOWINGS OF CROPS
IN U.S.S.R.

Due to the late and cold spring, sowings of crops were considerably delayed this season in the Soviet Union. By May 1st over 82,500,000 acres were seeded. This area was more than 3,400,000 acres below that seeded on the same date last year. Extensive damage to winter crops, necessitating resowing, was reported from important southern wheat producing regions of the Soviet Union.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO U. S. FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL TRADE

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World Flaxseed Production and Trade. Foreign Agriculture Circular FFO 2-56.

World Hard Fibers Production Continues Upward Trend in 1955. Foreign Agriculture Circular FVF 1-56.

Miscellaneous Tobacco Developments. Foreign Agriculture Circular FT 7-56.

Foreign Agricultural Trade Digest, April issue.

